

**Rep. Xavier Becerra (D-CA-34)**

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**Previous Service:** 1993-2013 (CA, 31st)

**Date of Birth:** January 26, 1958

**Hometown:** Los Angeles

**Religion:** Roman Catholic

**Education:** JD, Stanford University Law School,  
1984, BA, Economics, Stanford University, 1980

**Professional Experience:** Deputy Attorney General

**Committee Assignments:** Member of Ways and  
Means Committee

**Subcommittees Memberships:** Ranking Member  
of Subcommittee on Social Security

## Biography

First elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1992, Representative Xavier Becerra serves as Chairman of the House Democratic Caucus, is a member of the powerful Committee on Ways And Means and is Ranking Member of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security.

In 2010, Rep. Becerra served on the bipartisan National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform. Rep. Becerra is a member of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) where he served as Chair during the 105th Congress (1997-98). The Congressman is also a member of the Executive Committee of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus.

Rep. Becerra also serves on the Smithsonian Board of Regents. In 2011, he was appointed to serve on the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture Council.

Prior to his election to Congress, Rep. Becerra served one term in the California Legislature as the representative of the 59th Assembly District in Los Angeles County. He is a former Deputy Attorney General with the California Department of Justice.

Rep. Becerra is the son of working-class parents and was the first in his family to graduate from college. His mother was born in Jalisco, Mexico and immigrated to the United States after marrying his father. In 1980, Rep. Becerra earned his Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Stanford University. He was awarded his Juris Doctorate from Stanford Law School in 1984. Rep. Becerra is married to Dr. Carolina Reyes. They are the proud parents of three daughters: Clarisa, Olivia and Natalia.

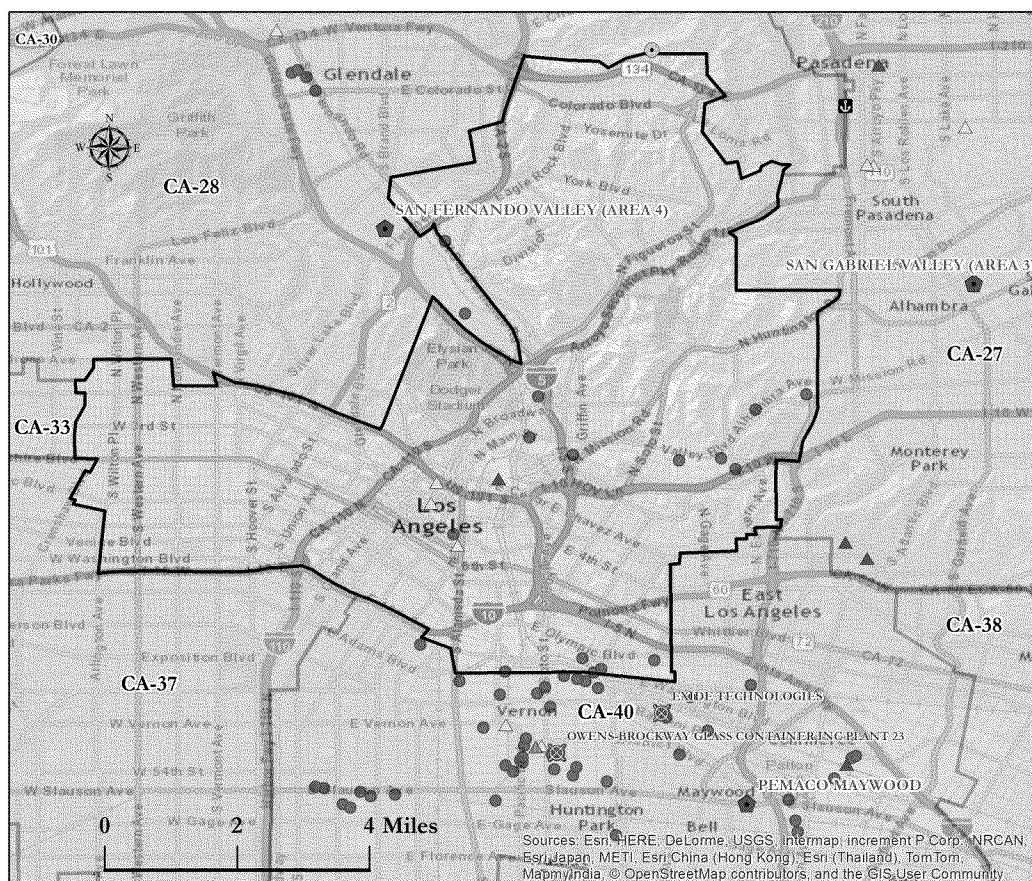
The full bio and more district info can be found at:  
<http://becerra.house.gov/>

## Position on Environment and Energy

According to the *League of Conservation Voters*, Becerra's Pro-Environment scorecard is **92%** for his lifetime voting record on environmental legislation.

"Today, Congressman Becerra steadfastly opposes efforts in the current Republican-led Congress to slash clean energy investments, defund the agency responsible for going after speculators who drive up prices, weaken the Clean Air Act and protect subsidies for the big oil companies that are making record profits off the backs of American workers."

More information on her Pro-Environment voting record <http://scorecard.lcv.org/moc/xavier-becerra>  
Vote Smart political summary of Rep. Becerra: <http://votesmart.org/candidate/26754/xavier-becerra>



**Figure 1.** California's 34<sup>th</sup> Congressional District (bolded boundary) and neighboring districts.

The multicultural CA-34 district is mostly urbanized. Communities in CA-34 include Boyle Heights, Downtown, Eagle Rock, Echo Park, El Sereno, Glassell Park, Highland Park/Garvanza, Historic Filipinotown, Koreatown, Lincoln Heights, Mt. Washington, Montecito Heights, and Westlake/Pico Union. The Los Angeles River intersects from north of the district, near Elysian Park, to the south, in the City of Vernon. CA-34 is home to LA's Dodger's Stadium.

Within CA-34 and three miles from its borders, exists:

- **3 Superfund Sites**
  - The Pemaco Maywood Site in CA-40 (Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard: <http://roybal-allard.house.gov/>)
  - The San Gabriel Valley (Area 3) in CA-27 (Rep. Judy Chu: <http://chu.house.gov/>)
  - The San Fernando Valley (Area 4) in CA-28 (Rep. Adam Schiff: <http://schiff.house.gov/>)
- **Two facilities significantly violating environmental compliance laws** Exide Technologies & Owens - Brockway Glass Container Inc, Plant #23.
- 67 TRI Facilities (see: <http://www.environment.ucla.edu/cccp/calecomaps/>)
- The Scholl Canyon Landfill
 

**RCRA info:** [http://oaspub.epa.gov/enviro/rcrainfoquery.get\\_report?pgm\\_sys\\_id=CAO000927\\_426](http://oaspub.epa.gov/enviro/rcrainfoquery.get_report?pgm_sys_id=CAO000927_426)
- 12 currently operating or planned power generation plants
  - 6 Gas-fired power plants (13-287MW), 1 Petro-fired power plant (41.8MW)
  - 5 Renewable energy power plants (1-49 MW)



## Priority Issues

Table 1. NPL Sites in or near CA-34.

Site Information	Description, History, and Risks	Cleanup efforts to date
<b>PEMACO MAYWOOD</b>  5040 SLAUSON BLVD. MAYWOOD, LOS ANGELES, CA 90270  On the Final NPL - Construction Completed  Current Human Exposure Controlled	Hazardous substances were used at the facility, including chlorinated solvents, aromatic solvents, and flammable liquids. After the facility was closed, responsible parties were ordered to dispose of the large-scale containers of laboratory chemicals, however, the facility was burnt to the ground prior to completion. During initial assessment, the EPA found high levels of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) in the soil beneath the site. The groundwater beneath the site was also contaminated with VOCs. VOCs at the site included: <i>Perchloroethylene (PCE)</i> , <i>Trichloroethylene (TCE)</i> , <i>Trichloroethane (TCA)</i> , <i>Dichloroethane (DCA)</i> and <i>vinyl chloride (VC)</i> . VOCs are known or suspected carcinogens and, therefore, could have posed a serious risk to people if exposed to the chemicals. <b>For more information, visit:</b> <a href="http://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0904950">http://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0904950</a>	The Agency responded by: 1) erecting a chain link fence with razor wire around the site; 2) verifying that all storage tanks were empty; 3) attaching locked caps to standpipes, 4) removing a small number of 55-gallon drums for disposal. EPA referred the site back to the LA County Hazmat. Groundwater treatment system during April 2007. The vapor recovery and treatment began in 2007, and the Electrical Resistance Heating remedy began full operations in 2007. EPA turned off the Electrical Resistive Heating remedy in 2008 and permanently transferred vapor treatment over to carbon in 2008. The concentrations in the ERH area, vapor treatment system and groundwater continue to decrease over time.
<b>SAN GABRIEL VALLEY (AREA 3)</b>  MAIN ST & GAFIELD AVE ALHAMBRA, LOS ANGELES, CA 91801  On the Final NPL - Construction  Completed Current Human Exposure Controlled	One of four Superfund Sites in the San Gabriel Valley, Area 3 Site includes a 19-square mile groundwater contamination of VOCs contained in intermittent areas. The VOC contaminants include TCE and PCE at concentrations that super exceed the MCL. Currently, all drinking water served within the Area 3 Site meets drinking water standards  <b>For more information, visit:</b> <a href="http://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0902093">http://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0902093</a>	EPA, in partnership with the California Regional Water Quality Control Board of Los Angeles (RWQCB), is evaluating and assessing the results of a remedial investigation completed in 2012 to continue with a feasibility study. Additional investigation to identify PRPs is being conducted. Since 2003, EPA has installed eight groundwater monitoring wells and conducted routine groundwater sampling to evaluate groundwater contamination.
<b>SAN FERNANDO VALLEY (AREA 4- Pollock)</b>  POLLOCK WELLFIELD LOS ANGELES, LOS ANGELES, CA 90086  On the Final NPL - Study Underway  Current Human Exposure Controlled	Area 4 is an area of contaminated groundwater covering approximately 5,860 acres near the Pollock Well Field in the City of Los Angeles. Approximately three million people reside within three miles of this site. The groundwater is contaminated with various chlorinated VOCs, specifically trichloroethylene (TCE) and perchloroethylene (PCE). Exposure to the VOC contamination can occur through drinking, bathing, or cooking with contaminated groundwater  <b>For more information, visit:</b> <a href="http://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0902253">http://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0902253</a>	EPA completed an interim investigation of Area 4 in April 1994. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) planned to conduct a wellhead treatment project at Area 4. In 1998, LADWP reactivated wells to extract and treat the groundwater. Investigations are still continuing to determine the full nature and extent of contamination. The use of an interim alternate drinking water supply and operation of the Pollock wellhead treatment project have reduced the potential of exposure to contaminated drinking water at the Area 4 Site.



*Enforcement and Compliance*

Table 2. Major facilities with current significant violations via the ECHO database (<http://echo.epa.gov/>)

Facility Name	Address	Statutes of Violation
Exide Technologies	2700 SOUTH INDIANA STREET, LOS ANGELES, CA	High Priority Violation of CAA (12 quarters), Significant Non-Compliance Violation of RCRA (10 quarters) <b>Detailed facility report:</b> <a href="http://echo.epa.gov/detailed-facility-report?fid=110000609921">http://echo.epa.gov/detailed-facility-report?fid=110000609921</a>
Owens-Brockway Glass Container Inc, Plant #23	2901 TO 2923 FRUITLAND AVENUE, VERNON, CA	High Priority Violation of CAA (10 quarters), Non-Compliance Violation of CWA (6 quarters) <b>Detailed facility report:</b> <a href="http://echo.epa.gov/detailed-facility-report?fid=110002631073">http://echo.epa.gov/detailed-facility-report?fid=110002631073</a>

## Press Releases

*Congressman Xavier Becerra on EPA'S New Action to Combat Climate Change(06/02/2014)*

WASHINGTON, DC — Today, Congressman Xavier Becerra (CA-34), Chairman of the House Democratic Caucus, released the following statement after the Environmental Protection Agency announced new action to cut carbon dioxide pollution by as much as 30 percent:

"The world is not flat and climate change is real. There can be no excuses when it comes to combating climate change. It's our responsibility to protect the air we breathe and the safety of our communities. We must responsibly boost our energy production to meet the needs of our growing economy without harming the health of future generations.

"I applaud President Barack Obama for taking bold action on climate change and for his continued leadership ensuring America has an all-of-the-above energy policy that expands our energy independence, lowers energy costs, and creates good paying jobs."

*Congressman Xavier Becerra on EPA Finding Exide Technologies a Source of Harmful Lead Emissions (05/23/2014)*

WASHINGTON, DC— Today, Congressman Xavier Becerra (CA-34), released the following statement after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) notified Exide Technologies of federal violations at its Vernon, CA lead smelting facility. The EPA's investigation of the facility is ongoing and has thus far found that Exide violated the Clean Air Act's lead emissions standards on more than 30 occasions.

"When it comes to protecting the air we breathe and the safety of our communities, there can be no excuses and we must act. The EPA is working with state and local agencies to ensure that Exide is compliant with federal law. I will continue to work with them to secure the guarantees that our communities deserve that Exide's facility does not endanger the health of residents in the surrounding neighborhoods."

*U.S. EPA finds Exide Technologies a source of harmful lead emissions (05/22/2014)*

**LOS ANGELES** – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency today notified Exide Technologies of federal violations at its Vernon, Calif. lead smelting facility. EPA's investigation prompted by community concerns as well as ongoing investigations by state and local agencies, found that Exide violated the Clean Air Act's lead emissions standards on more than 30 occasions. EPA's investigation of the facility is ongoing.

EPA's review of data collected from air quality monitors at locations on or around the facility showed average lead emissions above the federal standard from March 22 through April 19, 2014. In addition, excess emissions were monitored on or about September 9, 2013, September 18, 2013, and January 2 through January 3, 2014.

Exide Technologies is a battery recycling facility located at 2700 South Indiana Avenue in Vernon and has been in operation since 1922. Exide recovers lead from recycled automotive batteries and other lead-bearing scrap materials and recycles 23,000 to 41,000 batteries daily. The City of Vernon is an industrial city of 5.2 square miles located approximately two miles from homes and schools in the neighboring City of Maywood.

**For the full story, visit**

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/2dd7f669225439b78525735900400c31/09787ada8e279d8b85257ce0006217ce!OpenDocument>



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*Congressman Xavier Becerra on National Climate Assessment (05/06/2014)*

WASHINGTON, DC — Today, Congressman Xavier Becerra (CA-34), Chairman of the House Democratic Caucus, released the following statement in response to the National Climate Assessment issued by the White House:

"The world is not flat and climate change is real. As elected leaders, it's our duty to respond to the threat of climate change in order to prevent further damage to our environment and communities. As this report makes clear, climate change is already having a devastating impact throughout the United States, especially in states in the Southwest like California where increased wildfires and droughts are not only damaging the environment but also costing our economy thousands of jobs.

"For the good of our economy, our workers and consumers, Congress must not shrink from this challenge but rather it should take the scientific evidence seriously and support legislative initiatives to preserve clean air, protect clean water and ensure that our government maintains its commitment to being good stewards of our nation's lands."

**No sponsored or cosponsored environmental legislation that requires EPA action or attempts to amend EPA laws were found.**